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07/25/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ma et al.

Serial No.: 09/577,304

Group No.: 1652

Filed: 05/24/00

Examiner: C. Patterson

Entitled: Improved Enzymes for the Detection of Specific Nucleic Acid Sequences



AMENDMENT & RESPONSE TO
OFFICE ACTION MAILED MARCH 18, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

JUL 23 2002

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Express Mail Label No. EV 092 300 437 US in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Dated: July 18, 2002

By:

Susan M. McClintock

Sir:

The following communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed March 18, 2002. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks. A petition for a one month extension of time, from June 18, 2002, to July 18, 2002, is included with this communication. Also submitted with this communication is a courtesy copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and 1449 being filed herewith (at TAB 1). Applicants note that there is a large box being filed with the IDS that contains all of the references cited. Applicants request that all of these references be made of record in the present application.

A clean version of the rewritten claims with instructions for entry pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(i) is provided below. A marked up version of the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii) is included at Appendix I. A clean version of the entire set of pending claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(3) as they should appear following entry of the this amendment is attached at Appendix II.